

**FOCUS ON...**

**General Fund  
Fiscal 2008**

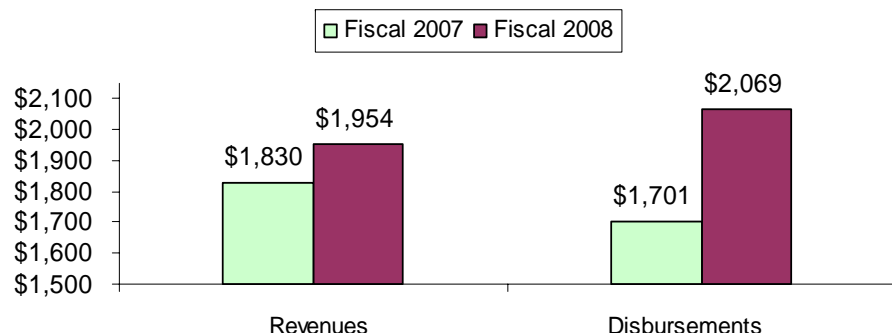


October 2008

**Fiscal Pocket Guide**



**Figure 4  
General Fund Comparison  
Fiscal 2007 & 2008 (millions)**



Total general fund disbursements represent approximately 43 percent of all state disbursements in the general, state special, federal special, selected proprietary and other fund types.

As shown in Figure 4, total revenues to the general fund account in fiscal 2008 were nearly \$2.0 billion, an increase of \$124 million or 6.8 percent from fiscal 2007. Disbursements were nearly \$2.1 billion, an increase of \$368 million or 21.6 percent from fiscal 2007. Revenue and disbursement amounts are as reported on the Statewide Accounting Budgeting and Human Resources System.



**Figure 5**

**Historical General Fund Revenue and Disbursements**

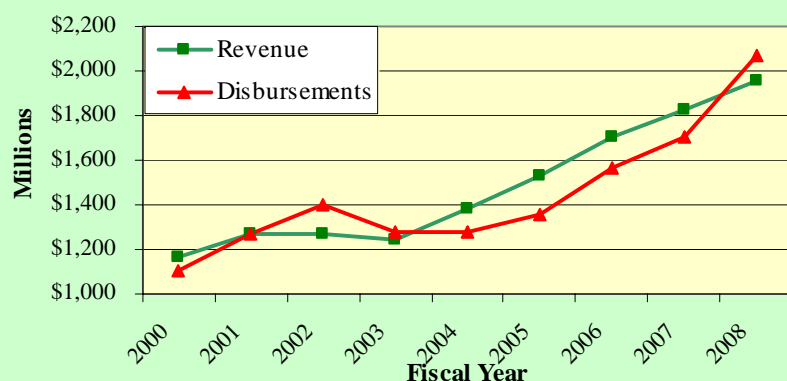


Figure 5 shows historical general fund revenues and disbursements beginning in FY 2000.

*"The state general fund is the primary account that funds a significant portion of the general operations of state government..."*

**LFD Mission Statement**

We are committed to enhancing the legislative process through understandable and objective fiscal policy analysis and information.



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## Fiscal 2008



The state general fund is the primary account that funds a significant portion of the general operations of state government and is often referred to as the state's checking account. Expenditures from the account have grown from slightly less than \$700 million in fiscal 1990 to nearly \$2.1 billion in fiscal 2008, or approximately 6.3 percent annually.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1 shows the sources of money for the general fund by major revenue category.

In fiscal 2008 over 63 percent of total general fund revenues came from income and property taxes.

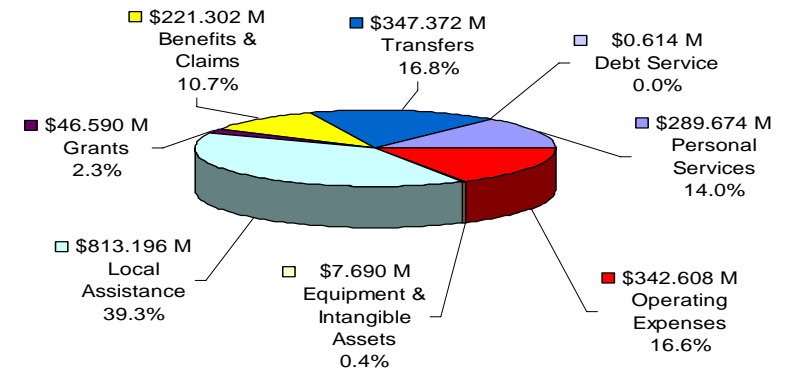
Figure 2 shows how the money was expended by major expenditure account, and Figure 3 shows how the money was expended by functional area.

About 31 percent of the general fund revenue was expended for personal services and operating costs, with most of the remainder disbursed for local assistance (including education), human service benefits, and transfers.

This indicates that the cost of government is weighted heavily towards local assistance (local government entities) and direct human service benefits.



**Figure 2**  
Fiscal 2008 General Fund Expenditures by Expenditure Account Total \$2,069.045 Million

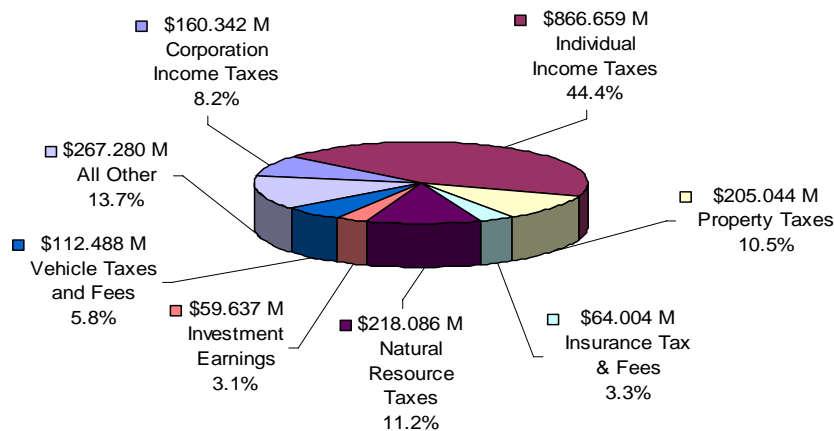


Transfers are the movement of general fund money to another fund.

Most of the transfers were to the university system's current, unrestricted fund (\$154 million), state special revenue funds (\$87), capital projects funds (\$78 million), debt service funds (\$19 million) and trust funds (\$8 million).

Figure 3 shows that of all general fund disbursements, \$863 million or 42 percent was spent on education and \$357 million or 17 percent was spent on human services.

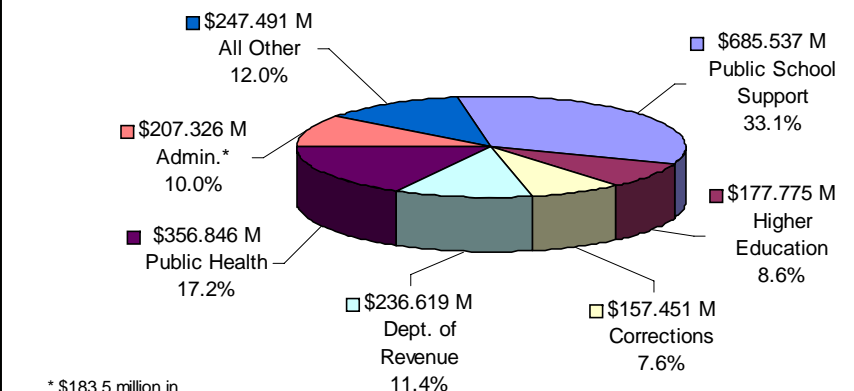
**Figure 1**  
Fiscal 2008 General Fund Revenues by Revenue Category Total \$1,953.540 Million



<sup>1</sup> In addition to program and spending growth, this growth rate includes increases in the fund due to fund switches (from de-earmarking and other transfers) that do not reflect a growth in total state spending. For example, HB 124 in the 2001 session included a pass-through of significant new revenue/disbursements through the general fund to local and state governments that doesn't represent an increase in total state spending.



**Figure 3**  
Fiscal 2008 General Fund Expenditures by Functional Area Total \$2,069.045 Million



\* \$183.5 million in transfers to other funds